

1 Amendments to the claims

2 Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 15, cancel claims 2, 9, 16-18, and add
3 new claim 24, all as follows.

4

5 Claim 1 (currently amended). A printing system comprising:

6 a processor configured to generate a rasterized print job from a print job; and

7 a storage device coupled to the processor and configured to store the
8 rasterized print job, said storage device located externally of the processor; and

9 an image producing device configured to receive the rasterized print job from
10 the storage device, and wherein the image producing device is external of the
11 processor and the storage device.

12

13 Claim 2 (cancelled).

14

15 Claim 3 (original). The printing system of claim 1, wherein said storage device is
16 configured to store and retrieve a plurality of rasterized print jobs generated by said
17 processor and said system further comprises:

18 a plurality of image producing devices, said plurality of image producing
19 devices being in communication with a network.

20

21 Claim 4 (currently amended). The printing system of claim 1, further comprising:

22 one or more print job generators, each print job generator being configured to
23 generate a print job, said print job generators being in communication with said a
24 network.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended). The printing system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a plurality of processors, each configured to receive a print job and generate a
3 rasterized print job from said print job and send said rasterized print job through said
4 a network.

5

6 Claim 6 (currently amended). The printing system of claim 14, further
7 comprising:

8 a print server to receive a print job from the one or more print job generators
9 and cause a rasterized print job to be sent from the storage device.

10

11 Claim 7 (original). The printing system of claim 6, wherein said print server is
12 further configured to cause a new rasterized print job to be stored on the storage
13 device.

14

15 Claim 8 (currently amended). An image producing device comprising:

16 a processor with software configured to receive an instruction and, in
17 response to said instruction, retrieve a print job from a storage device external to
18 said image producing device; and

19 wherein said device is configured to generate a rasterized print job and send
20 the rasterized print job to an external storage device.

21

22 Claim 9 (cancelled).

23

24 Claim 10 (original). The image producing device of claim 8, wherein said software
25 on said processor is configured to generate instructions relating to one or more print
jobs and to send said instructions to at least one of an external storage device and/or
another image producing device, through a network.

1 Claim 11 (original). The image producing device of claim 8, wherein said processor
2 is configured to merge two separate print jobs into a single print job, where at least
3 one of said print jobs is received from an external storage device.

4

5 Claim 12 (original). A method for use in creating an image on print media said
6 method comprising the steps of:

7 determining that a print job should be divided among multiple image
8 producing devices; and

9 sending said print job to multiple image producing devices.

10

11 Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

12 sending said print job to an external storage device with an instruction for an
13 image producing device to execute said print job;

14

15 Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

16 dividing said print job into segments for execution in multiple steps.

17

18 Claim 15 (currently amended). A method for use in creating an image on print
19 media said method comprising the steps of:

20 receiving an unrasterized print job from a device on a network;

21 processing said unrasterized print job into a rasterized print job;

22 sending the rasterized print job to an external storage device;

23 retrieving ~~an existing~~ the rasterized print job from ~~an~~ the external storage
device; and

25 generating an image from said rasterized print job using an image producing
device.

1 Claim 16-18 (cancelled).

2

3 Claim 19 (original). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:
4 receiving an instruction to retrieve a print job from an external storage device.

5

6 Claim 20 (original). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:
7 determining whether a print job is stored on external storage device in
8 rasterized form by checking a directory to determine whether the rasterized print job
9 is stored on an external storage device.

10

11 Claim 21 (original). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:
12 sending the rasterized print job to a plurality of image producing devices.

13

14 Claim 22 (original). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:
15 sending data to at least an external storage device and/or a second image
16 producing device.

17

18 Claim 23 (original). A printing system comprising:
19 means for printing including means for rasterizing a print job to produce a
20 rasterized print job;
21 means for transmitting said rasterized print job externally of said means for
22 printing;
23 means for storing said rasterized print job externally of said means for
24 printing; and
25 means for retrieving said rasterized print job back to said means for printing.

24 (new). A printing system comprising:

a processor configured to generate a rasterized print job from a print job;

a storage device coupled to the processor and configured to store the

rasterized print job, said storage device located externally of the processor; and

an image producing device configured to house the processor.

(End of Amendment "A".)

(Continued on next page.)